

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 04227 201218Z
ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 /019 W
----- 066072 /53

R 201013Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7568
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS BUDAPEST 4227

DEPT FOR OC/P, EUR/EE-GERTH, AND EUR/EX
BONN FOR RCO
FRANKFURT FOR RPC

E O 11652: NA
TAGS: ACOM AFSP HU
SUBJ: RETURN OF SURPLUS POUCH BAGS

REF : 5 FAM 382.2-2

1. BUDAPEST HAS, SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL, BEEN PAYING CHARGES FOR SHIPMENTS OF SURPLUS POUCH BAGS TO DEPT, FRANKFURT, AND VIENNA. POST CAN FIND NO INDICATION IN ITS RECORDS THAT GOH (POST OFFICE DIRECTORATE OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND POSTAL AFFAIRS) HAS EVER BEEN APPROACHED REGARDING FREE SHIPMENT OF EMPTY POUCH BAGS PER UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONVENTION AS STATED IN 5 FAM, OF OTTAWA, OCT 1957. THEREFORE, EMBASSY SENT, THROUGH DIPLOMATIC SERVICE DIRECTORATE (DSD) ON NOV 8, 1976, A LETTER REQUESTING GOH, AS A SIGNATORY OF THAT CONVENTION, TO BEGIN RETURNING EMBASSY'S SURPLUS POUCHES FREE OF CHARGE.

2. ON DEC 7, DSD REPLIED THAT POST OFFICE DIRECTORATE (POD) HAS ADVISED THAT EMPTY POUCHES CANNOT BE CONSIDERED POSTAL BAGS, BUT ONLY "WRAPPING MATERIAL;" THEREFORE, POD HAS NO

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OBLIGATION TO RETURN THEM FREE OF CHARGE. REPLY GOES ON TO INFORM EMBASSY THAT OTTAWA CONVENTION IS NOT VALID ANY LONGER. IT HAS BEEN SUPERSEDED BY (A) A 1964 VIENNA CONVENTION; (B) A 1969 TOKYO CONVENTION; AND (C) A 1974 LAUSANNE CONVENTION AND THAT NONE OF THESE CONVENTIONS REFER TO DIPLOMATIC BAGS.

3. PER REF 5 FAM POST WILL CONTINUE TO PAY SHIPPING CHARGES FOR RETURN OF SURPLUS POUCHES TO DEPT, FRANKFURT AND VIENNA WHEN AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS CANNOT BE UTILIZED (I.E. SHIPMENT VIA EMBASSY TRUCK WHEN ONE IS SENT OUT ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CONFIRM THAT 1957 OTTAWA CONVENTION IS NO LONGER VALID AND THAT GOH IS CORRECT IN ITS ASSERTIONS.

MUDD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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